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honors ink

News and notes from the **University of Dayton Honors Program**



Kiersten Remster and academic peers in Oxford, England

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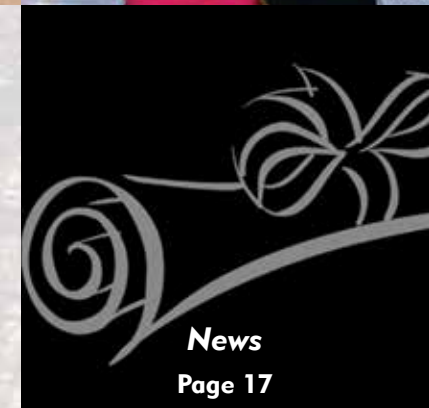
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DEAR READER:

NEW. The word can sometimes imply refreshment, sometimes challenge, but always seems to bring excitement and change.

The University of Dayton has experienced new in many ways over the last few years — the president, the provost, the chapel, the campus itself and more. The University Honors Program, too, is experiencing changes this year, and you'll read about them in this issue.

We welcome our new director, Dr. John McCombe, who some of you may remember from Honors English classes. In addition, the LINK is transitioning its content management from the talented and creative Elizabeth Abrams as she moves towards graduation, to our new manager-in-training, Monica Rook. We are also introducing the newest signature program, Global Flyers, in which students spent the summer interning in London, learning about food sustainability in India, or continuing Honors thesis research at Oxford.

Finally, we have some great stories from our Honors alumni who discuss their own major transitions in careers and life, as well as the yearly class notes to catch up on alumni news.

As always, thank you for any and all past, present and future contributions to the **link** — the Honors news magazine wouldn't be the same without you.

Warm regards,

Ramona R. Speranza
Managing Editor

EXCEEDING THE STANDARD

introducing John McCombe



We have a lot of students in the program so I want to make sure every student gets the opportunity to do something extraordinary — that's the goal.



THIS PAST YEAR the University Honors Program introduced Dr. John McCombe as the new Program director. Although he has been an English professor at UD since 2001, McCombe had a less than traditional start to his university teaching career — rather than taking the direct route, he started by working as a clinical chemist. After receiving his undergraduate degree in secondary education from the University of Pittsburgh, McCombe was professionally certified to teach high school chemistry. However, he soon realized that he was called towards literature more than science.

“I was good at chemistry, but I don’t think I ever really loved being in a lab,” McCombe said. “So I took classes in areas that I did like, (such as) film studies, English and art history, while working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.”

After completing graduate studies in English, he came to the University of Dayton. There, he offered Honors courses and served as associate director of the Honors Program for five years. “At times I’ve considered [other] leadership positions on campus, but I have only ever applied for two,” McCombe said. “They were both in the Honors Program.”

McCombe repeatedly spoke of the students studying in the Honors Program with great admiration. He has taught classes ranging from British Literature surveys to more specialized classes on Bob Dylan and 1980’s film. Often, he teaches the 200H English CAP class to first-year students. As is customary with the 200H course, McCombe has the latitude to select a theme of his own choosing each semester.

“I’ve had some really unique themes,” McCombe said. “One semester we focused on the construction of Dodger Stadium in southern California. It was really interesting because there a social justice component to it since many Mexican-Americans were displaced from their homes in the Chavez Ravine neighborhood ... it wasn’t a course that related much to baseball.”

Having had so much experience working with students in the classroom, McCombe has a clear understanding of what students want and need — and he is incredibly determined to exceed the standards.

McCombe recognizes that each student’s definition of extraordinary is different. To address this, he highlighted multiple avenues students may take to achieve their academic goals. Among those are

participation in internship opportunities (such as the DC Flyers), the Chaminade Scholars Program and study abroad, particularly within the Global Flyers Program.

“When I came to UD, the Honors Program was very small — just a few hundred students — and when I became associate director, we restructured things,” McCombe said. “It’s much larger now and that was one of the reasons that I wanted to come back. I was part of a team that did this and I wanted to finish that work.”

To him, the work is worth the effort. McCombe genuinely enjoys working with his Honors students, finding them to be some of the most engaging, active learners in the classroom.

“With Honors students there is a little bit more motivation — people are willing to do more work,” he said. “They’re just interesting and energetic and creative. I kind of wanted more of that.”

McCombe himself has been energetic and creative in his work at UD and has plans to continue fundraising within the Honors Program, eventually expanding the curriculum to which students have access by adding specialized Honors sections in upper-level classes.

As an educator, McCombe has drawn upon his own experiences from his past college years. He described how his teaching experience showed him that as a 20-year-old he didn’t take advantage of the same opportunities that UD Honors students do today.

“A lot of our students seize opportunities in a way that I didn’t,” he said. “They’re driven to learn in service of others which is really amazing. I wish I had done more of that myself as a student. So it’s my job now to encourage them to take advantage of those opportunities.”

When asked what advice he would give to today’s Honors students, McCombe laughed and gave a somewhat unexpected response, saying, “I want to continue to feel bad about my own undergraduate experience.” He hopes to see students continue to have a high level of achievement and to take advantage of any opportunities that he has to the power to give them.

The Honors Program welcomes Dr. McCombe as the new program director and looks forward to what is to come!

Anna Lagattuta '19



APPRECIATION FOR FACULTY who challenge their students is doubly given when it's a classroom full of Honors students. The instructors spotlighted here are just some of the more recent additions to the group of dedicated teachers so important to maintaining a strong Honors Program.

Rachel Bloom-Pojar English

One of the newer faculty members supporting the Honors Program is Dr. Rachel Bloom-Pojar, an assistant professor in the English department.



She attended the University of Kansas to earn her Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition, beginning her career teaching general writing and composition classes. Her research has focused on the context of health in a temporary health program in the Dominican Republic. This sparked her interest in health literacy. Starting her career at UD in fall of 2015, she has taught a number of classes including ENG 366 and ENG 373.

As Bloom-Pojar teaches Honors courses, she enjoys “the intellectual conversations that come out of the small class sizes, the way students can be pushed to their full potential and seeing that they can go beyond what they thought they could.” In her Writing for Health Professions class, she enjoys seeing students from health- and science-related fields learn to love an English and writing class. She looks forward to working with students from

different disciplines. Bloom-Pojar advises Honors students to “take Honors courses outside your area of study to see how it enhances your education. Be sure to keep in contact with your professors after class, because that is how mentor relationships can begin to form outside the classroom.”

Kristine Perez '17

Anne Crecelius Health and Sport Science

Health and Sport Science assistant professor Anne Crecelius has experienced the Honors Program from many direc-



tions: first as a student, then as a thesis advisor and now as an instructor of an Honors research course. A 2007 alum, Crecelius went on to receive a Ph.D. before returning to UD in 2013 to teach and to conduct research on cardiovascular blood flow. She mentored a Berry Summer Thesis Institute student in her second year as a professor before teaching her first Honors courses in fall 2016. She credits her undergraduate Honors

experience as being influential in her work as a professor: “My experience doing an Honors thesis as an undergrad set me on a path toward graduate school which set me on a path to my current career.” In turn, she said, she wants to be able to facilitate the same thing for her students. “There is a lot of joy, pride and satisfaction that comes from seeing undergrads feel like experts in something,” Crecelius said.

Crecelius said teaching Honors students is unique because there is time to explore more material in a course. Additionally, they bring a lot of knowledge to the table which pushes her to always be at her best. Crecelius’ numerous experiences with Honors students have allowed her to walk with students as they become more specialized in their academic and career plans and in the process may have to learn to say no to things. “It’s a constant struggle,” said Crecelius, “but often people who are Honors students (or were in my case) are driven and motivated to do a lot of good. That [drive] just has to be focused. If everyone can do that, great work still gets done, it just may not always all get done by one person. And that’s okay.”

Elizabeth Abrams '17



At Experimental Biology Conference (from left to right): Liz Kelsch, Mike Hudock, Crecelius and Josh Keller. Photograph courtesy of A. Crecelius 2016.

Thomas Farnsworth Psychology



Dayton’s identity as a Marianist university shapes the experience of its students both inside and outside of the classroom.

As a Marianist brother, Dr. Thomas Farnsworth weaves his classroom instructions with the characteristics of Marianist education. These characteristics include providing an integral, quality education; educating for the formation of faith; educating in the family spirit; educating for service, justice and peace; and educating for adaption and change. In his psychology courses, Farnsworth aptly integrates the principle of educating for service, justice and peace. His students spend time volunteering and shadowing in clinical settings. Farnsworth indicates that students are better able to apply and reflect upon the information they learn when allowed to experience examples of it firsthand. Exposure to opportunities to volunteer motivates students to further pursue service, justice and peace independently.

The values of the University Honors Program are rooted in the characteristics of a Marianist education. Like Farnsworth, UD’s Honors Program strives to connect students with opportunities to serve the community. The zeal Farnsworth possesses for successfully teaching in a Marianist manner is admirable.

Sarah Feldkamp '17

Nancy Haskell

Economics

Entering her third year at UD, Dr. Nancy Haskell excels as an assistant professor of economics. She began her education at Davidson College and taught as a graduate assistant at the Ohio State University. Haskell teaches classes ranging from principles of microeconomics to labor economics, and she enjoys teaching Honors courses. “The smaller class sizes are more enjoyable than lecture halls, and I think the students, on average, are more open to discussion, tend to ask more questions and are more conscientious,” Haskell said.



In addition to teaching, Haskell is working as a thesis advisor and enjoys working one-on-one with students in their areas of expertise. She sees involving students in research as a great opportunity, especially since UD does not have a graduate program in economics. For Honors students writing a thesis, she advises them to “approach your advisor on a regular basis when you struggle with concepts and don’t be afraid to admit that you need guidance. Keep yourself organized and maintain a weekly schedule.” She also notices that Honors students are cautious with taking chances on different ideas and are more concerned about maintaining an A. She advises students to not be so concerned with grades and “to work towards getting the GPA alongside learning the material and being fully engaged.”

Kristine Perez '17

Masha Kisel

English

The thematic approach to University of Dayton’s Honors writing seminars allows instructors to share knowledge and interest related to a specific topic in English.



The students in Dr. Masha Kisel’s writing seminars benefit from her expansive knowledge of censorship and life in the Soviet Union. Having grown up there, Kisel is able to couple her Ph.D. in Russian literature with childhood memories of the Soviet Union and experiences in modern-day Russia and Ukraine. Students in Kisel’s Honors English seminar are reading *The Master and Margarita*, a novel written from 1928-1940 in the Soviet Union that focuses on themes of totalitarianism. The course includes readings in cultural history to contextualize the novel, and the last few weeks of class are spent drawing connections to artistic censorship in Russia today. These connections focus on the case of Pussy Riot, a feminist punk group whose members served two years in prison for performing a two-minute protest song in a church.

Kisel uses *The Master and Margarita* as a framework to introduce first-year Honors students to the practices of intensive writing and rhetorical analysis. This is no easy feat for a single-semester course, but Kisel finds that Honors students are up to the challenge, bringing an intellectual curiosity that facilitates learning. She finds that students show high interest in the novel, regardless of their majors. The students’ curiosity about Russian culture allows them to engage in the complex and nuanced analysis Kisel sees in their writing and class discussions.

Sarah Feldkamp '17



Kisel at Russian Orthodox Church, St. Petersburg.
Photograph courtesy of M. Kisel 2016.

Kisel finds that Honors students are up to the challenge, bringing an intellectual curiosity that facilitates learning.

Fresh Faces *in Honors Places*

AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN

Global Flyers

The University Honors Program has implemented three additional signature programs to the many opportunities available to Honors students — Global Flyers: Oxford, Global Flyers: London and Global Flyers: India/Dayton. These international opportunities allow students to further develop the “UD Habits of Inquiry and Student Learning Outcomes.” Specifically, students are able to develop a better understanding of scholarship, diversity, community, practical wisdom, critical evaluation of our times and vocation through international experiential learning opportunities. Below is an overview of the three programs and perspectives from some of the students who experienced them.

Photograph courtesy of Meg Maloney 2016.



London

BEGINNING IN THE SUMMER OF 2016, six Honors students participated in the Global Flyers: London program. Partnering with CAPA, a third-party organization and leader in international internship opportunities, students were placed in various internships throughout London that aligned with their majors and areas of interest. In addition to interning 20 hours per week, the students engaged in an academic course and a seminar about the experience.



London Six (from left to right): Court, Thomakos, Haynes, Doroff, Brown and Borman. Photograph courtesy of E. Doroff 2016.

Civil engineering student Brian Borman was placed with Parsons Brinkerhoff, a global leader in developing and operating infrastructure around the world. Intervention specialist education major Renee Brown worked with

Reach Academy, a nonprofit group designed to help at-risk youth attain higher education. Adolescence to young adult education and English major Olivia Thomakos gained experience at Youth Music Theater, an organization providing theater training for young people ages 11 to 21. International business management major Emma Doroff performed human resources and administrative tasks at St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel London. Political science and human rights major Julia Court interned with Hibiscus, a female prisoners' welfare project that works with the special needs of migrant women imprisoned in the UK (see Court's Profile). History and women's and gender studies major Emily Haynes spent her summer with Forward UK, an international non-profit that works to enhance the well-being and protect the dignity of African girls and women globally.

Borman, Brown, Court, Doroff, Haynes and Thomakos were housed together in a flat and encouraged to travel throughout London and other nearby locations. After this unique summer experience, the group reported a greater understanding of their individual fields of study, diversity in the workplace and practical wisdom about their chosen professions.

Profiling Julia Court '17

JULIA COURT EXPERIENCED ENGLAND this past summer. As a political science and human rights major, Court was afforded the opportunity to intern for Hibiscus Initiatives in London, a non-profit organization in the UK that works to secure aid for marginalized and vulnerable women in the prison system. A typical day at work for

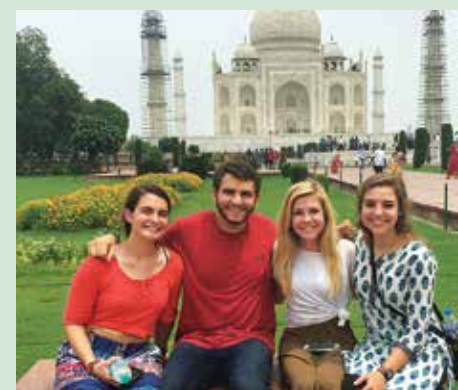
Court involved researching and contacting other organizations in London and Peterborough that might be interested in partnering to offer housing opportunities, food, clothes and other necessities for clients. In addition to the internship, Court took a class called Global Cities London. In this class, she went on excursions to parts of London not visited by the average tourist and she gained a deeper understanding of London's history, gentrification and development. The most memorable part of Court's experience was shadowing a colleague at Peterborough Prison and meeting women assisted by Hibiscus's work. After her time in London, Court knows she wants to be able to interact directly with the clientele she hopes to aid.



India

FOUR HONORS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED in the Global Flyers: India/Dayton program with a confirmed interest in sustainable development, food security and nutrition. Pre-medicine major Olivia Grondalski, sociology and criminal justice studies major Kaleigh Jurcisek, environmental biology major Meg Maloney and biochemistry major Nicholas Racchi spent four weeks in Sikkim, India. The region is located in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains, where students learned about global nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Additionally, several of these students will incorporate their time in Sikkim into their Honors thesis research.

The students experienced unique homestay experiences in rural India, learned from diverse backgrounds and critically reflected on the similarities and differences between food issues in Sikkim and the Dayton region. Grondalski, Jurcisek, Maloney and Racchi have continued their work to understand sustainable development, food security and nutrition in Dayton through work with both community partners and the Hanley Sustainability Institute.



India Four (from left to right): Jurcisek, Racchi, Grondalski and Maloney. Photograph courtesy of M. Maloney 2016.

Profiling Meg Maloney '18

MEG MALONEY PARTICIPATED in the Global Flyers: India Program called Food Security in the 21st Century. Maloney was able to use her environmental biology major and sustainability, energy and environment minor to learn about nutritional security in an international context. She lived with a host family in Sikkim, India, for three



weeks and was able to immerse herself in their day-to-day lives. She also took classes, which helped her apply what she has learned about globalization, climate change and gender studies.

Maloney was inspired by growing everything she ate and by appreciating how community members in this region have such a beautiful relationship with food. One of her favorite experiences was trying unique foods and keeping an open mind throughout the experience. Maloney's time in India affirmed that she is in the right field, and it reignited her passion about the environment and sustainability. In the future, she wants to spark more conversations about the future of food and ways to sustain the world's growing population. Maloney and her Global Flyers cohort are planning their follow-up project, taking what they learned in India and applying it to the Dayton area, hoping to share their knowledge in a meaningful way.

Oxford

IN ADDITION TO THE BERRY SUMMER THESIS INSTITUTE, the UHP supported three thesis writers in pursuing their thesis research at the University of Oxford, England, through the Oxford Study Abroad Programme (OSAP). Kieran Campbell, religious studies and philosophy; Tyler Masthay, mathematics and computer science; and Kiersten Remster, art history, spent six weeks completing a tutorial with an Oxford faculty member. All three students returned with glowing accounts of Oxford — with equally good reports from their tutors — strongly supporting their thesis work to be completed spring 2017. The UHP is looking forward to sending another talented cohort of thesis writers to Oxford in 2017.



Oxford Three (from left to right): Masthay, Remster and Campbell. Photograph courtesy of K. Campbell 2016.

Profiling Kieran Campbell '17

KIERAN CAMPBELL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to focus on his thesis at the University of Oxford, Pembroke College. Campbell spent his time at Oxford researching and meeting with a tutor about his thesis on the historical reception of angels and how the conceptions of angels have changed over time. Campbell's focus was fomented by his observation that people today don't regard the angelic in the same way as have people throughout history.



During the experience, Campbell also observed that the learning style at Oxford gave students much more freedom to drive their own education than students are given in the U.S. His relationship with Dr. Andrew Teal, his Anglican priest tutor, was very influential in guiding Campbell's research and overall experience. His time abroad affirmed his plan for the future, which is to become a theology professor. This was the first time he had done independent research and the fact that he enjoyed it gave him confidence in his future plans.

Anne Whalen '18

Adeline (Addie) Bodart '13

After graduating from UD in 2013 with degrees in accounting and finance, Addie Bodart landed a position in public accounting at a Big Four firm. However, she was soon seeking a change. "I wanted my work to feel more meaningful," she said. Thus, Bodart shifted gears and began working in the non-profit industry at Shelterhouse, the largest homeless shelter in Southwest Ohio.

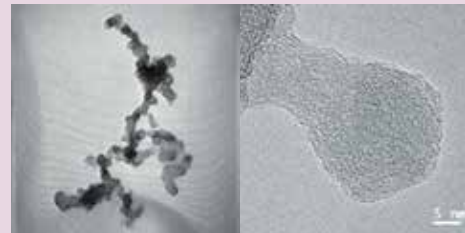
Bodart has always missed her years at UD and the sense of community on campus, but she is now experiencing a similar feeling in her new position. She said, "Although the UD experience cannot be replicated, I have found a new sense of community in Shelterhouse."

Elizabeth Pedrotti '17

André L. Boehman '86



André Boehman, UD graduate and former Honors student, said, "It was the Honors Program that motivated me to dive into my own independent research activities and fully exploit the opportunities that my parents and advisors had created for me." As an undergrad entering the Honors Program, Boehman was eager to take advantage of every opportunity presented to him. With the aid of helpful instructors and a wonderful opportunity at a Wright Patterson Air Force Base lab, he was able to rapidly complete his Honors thesis by junior year.



Transmission electron microscope images of diesel soot from biodiesel blends in low or ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, respectively. Left: a particulate morphology of a particle aggregate (195,000x magnification). Right: a primary soot particle (500,000x magnification). Images courtesy of A. Boehman 2016.

Today, Boehman is a faculty member at the University of Michigan in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and he works at the Walter E. Lay Automotive Laboratory. He said, "To this day, with my own students, I like to take risks, push boundaries and pursue interesting questions that don't always have easy answers. I am grateful for the role the Honors Program played in helping me find such a great path to follow in my career. And best of all, I have been able to walk this path with my UD sweetheart and wife of 30 years, Marita."

Josie Sprague '18

Jeff Bohrer '95

Many people face major career changes and Jeff Bohrer is no exception. He graduated from UD in 1995 majoring in civil engineering. He then earned a master's of civil engineering from Colorado State University and worked as a dam engineer for seven years.

Bohrer went back to school at UD and received his teaching certificate



the quality of life: changing perspectives

to teach high school physics. This led him to teach one year at Lebanon High School and ten years at Carroll High School before switching to his current position as Director of Property Management for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In deciding his career changes, Bohrer "switched from engineering to teaching because I felt somewhat unfulfilled. I wanted to make a difference on a personal level and that led me into the field of teaching." Reflecting back on his time at UD, Bohrer claims that the academic challenges in the Honors Program led to an attitude of enjoying growth experiences. He was able to meet other talented students from different disciplines, helping him see the diverse ways people think and work. As a result of his career changes, Bohrer feels he has been able to grow not only as an engineering professional but also as a person who has learned to work with and teach people.

Kristine Perez '17

Ann Hannan '98



Ann Hannan majored in music therapy as an Honors student at the University of Dayton, graduating in 1998. She

now has a director position at a children's hospital in a hospital auxiliary that funds music therapy and other special programs. When approached for this job she was told, "You are passionate about the work you do and you are committed to excellence with the patients and families at the hospital. Considering the director position of this organization will give you a chance to have a greater impact on services being provided to the hospital and to the community. We believe you are passionate about both."

Hannan attributes some of this passion to the UD Honors Program. She said, "The Honors Program at UD taught me to approach my career with a focus on the details and the big picture. I learned to articulate my thoughts with clarity and to listen carefully to ideas presented by all members of the team. I learned to approach challenges with an open mind. I learned to place the value of service above all other variables. This has led to the creation of a lifelong vocation. Learn, Lead and Serve: the life of a UD music therapist!"

Josie Sprague '18

Aubrey Hartnett '11

Aubrey Hartnett graduated from UD in 2011, having majored in international studies with a focus on human rights and Spanish. After teaching English in Spain for five months, Hartnett started working with the International Patient Center at the Brigham and Women's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Teaching abroad and then working within the healthcare industry was a significant transition, but Hartnett cited her recent promotion to a senior team member as an even more exciting life change.

"As the program has grown, so has my role within the hospital," Hartnett said. Through her involvement with Partners Healthcare's leadership training, as well as professional and program development training, she became a qualified and suitable candidate for promotion. She now collaborates with the hospital's business development team and works with individual patients and clinical teams. Hartnett said that her "unconventional experience of UD," thanks to the Honors Program, has "undoubtedly contributed to my effectiveness in my position."

Elizabeth Pedrotti '17

changing perspectives

Joan (Eckstein) McKamey '87



Former University of Dayton Honors student Joan McKamey received her degree in 1987 in religious studies with a concentration in religious education. She said, “My choice of UD to pursue a degree in religious studies was driven by a call and desire to share faith with others. Through the Honors Program, I was connected to a diverse group of bright and motivated peers — real people with real passions. Holding my own in the midst of such talent and the supportive friendships I found there have helped me gain confidence in my own abilities and convictions.”

Since graduating from UD, McKamey has spent 19 years working as a producer and editor of adult faith formation resources. Recently, she shifted to working with children’s liturgical catechesis resources for Pflaum Publishing Group/Bayard. Coincidentally, McKamey’s undergraduate Honors thesis at UD on the sacrament of Confirmation was published in a Pflaum magazine nearly 30 years ago.



Today, McKamey and her husband, Jon, are empty-nesters as their daughter, Claire, is now 21. They plan to live life to the fullest and make memories now instead of waiting until later; they have travelled to Paris and participated in a pilgrimage to Italy in fall 2016.

Josie Sprague '18



The McKameys at the Vatican Museum during their Italian pilgrimage. Images courtesy of J. McKamey 2016.

Garrett Prom '01

Garrett Prom, a 2001 UD graduate, recognizes that he is “not the first person to leave corporate America to found their own business in a completely different industry.”

With an electrical engineering degree from UD, Prom began his career in technical sales working for large corporations such as Medtronic, Boston Scientific and GE. However, he soon realized his passion for personal finance and investing, and founded his own financial planning firm called Prominent Financial Planning. Prom now serves over 50

Generation X and Y clients with unbiased financial advice and an online educational course he developed, DIY Financial Future.

Prom was inspired to pursue a self-motivated career in personal finance by the highly specialized physicians he worked with in technical sales. He said they “exuded passion for what they did.” He knew that hard work and faith would be necessary to start a business of his own and the Honors Program and UD helped to instill both in him. The Marianist influence, emphasized through Campus Ministry retreats and Father Ken’s Sunday night Masses, strengthened Prom’s faith.

In pursuing his Honors thesis and working with other Honors students to find solutions to Dayton’s lead poisoning issue, Prom learned valuable lessons about perseverance. He explained, “All we had was a problem, and it was up to us to find the solution, implement it and then sustain it — not much different than starting a business.”

Elizabeth Pedrotti '17

Tim Vogt '92



After living and working in Silicon Valley for 22 years, 1992 electrical engineering alum Tim Vogt and his wife decided to move their family to Oregon to pursue a simpler lifestyle that is aligned with the way they want to live and raise a family. From an internal job transfer to remodeling and selling an old house to buying and moving into a new one, Vogt said they have been fully supported by friends and family every step of the way. They are confident this relocation is the right move for their family.

Vogt’s experience in the Honors Program provided a strong foundation he has been able to build upon throughout his life and career. “I really appreciated the Honors Program’s emphasis on a well-rounded education and a cooperative rather than competitive learning environment,” he said. “It has served as a reminder that you can excel in collaboration even in a highly competitive environment.”

Elizabeth Abrams '17

In Her Own Words

Bethany Yager Houze '05

Last April, I sent a picture to the UD Magazine of me with two of my UD roommates after completing the Kentucky Derby Half Marathon in Louisville. It was our first half, and we were pretty stoked. We remain the best of friends even though one of them lives in Toledo, Ohio. It was pretty cool to make it into the magazine! In May 2015, I also sent an awesome picture into Class Notes from my wedding with a giant UD flag and all of my Dayton friends that could make it down to Louisville. Needless to say, I am a very lucky alum to still keep in such close contact with so many other alumni!

This year, I had different kind of picture to send, and I am not sure you’ve ever gotten one like this. It speaks to the true friendships Dayton creates and how they last a lifetime – thick and thin, far and near. This year’s picture is of me and those two roommates I ran with, plus an additional one who was out of town last year. We didn’t run this year, though, because I was diagnosed with breast cancer in January. I am the second person from our class that I know of to have to deal with this disease. But, like my classmate, I kicked its ... well, you know.

So this year's picture is all four of us at chemo: me, Laura Dries Barkley '05, Emily Martin Mullan '05 and Amy Wathen Grammer '05.



One of my chemo appointments happened to fall on my birthday. My Toledo roommate was scheduled to come down to be my chemo buddy, so we turned that day's infusion into a mini Dayton reunion and birthday party! I also received the Dayton Magazine the day before she got here. It was a divine coincidence, if you will.

When I got an email from the Honors Program asking "how your UD experience has contributed to your quality of life," well, it's all summed up in a chemo infusion room in Louisville, Kentucky. I couldn't ask for a better life, cancer and all. I didn't know anyone when I went to UD, and as a Berry Scholar I chose to stay on the Honors floor my freshman year. Emily was my next-door neighbor on 7 Middle in Marycrest, and Amy lived across the hall. (Though Amy was also from Louisville, we had never met, which is shocking for Catholic school kids in Louisville.) It turns out her best



friend from high school, Laura, was in the Berry Scholars Program with me but lived in Stuart. Soon, Laura, Amy, Emily, my roommate Sarah Mercadante Kruger '05 and I, (as well as another Louisville floor mate, Maggie Mangino, who transferred to pharmacy school after her first year), became fast friends. We lived together for the rest of our time at UD, and I lived with both Amy and Laura back in Louisville after graduation. Laura, Maggie, Amy and I hang out on a regular basis in Louisville. Emily and I see each other multiple times a year, and I am her daughter's godmother. Amy was my maid of honor and they



Yager Houze and husband Michael Houze.

were all in my wedding. As I said, we've stayed close. Back to cancer, I am doing awesome, which is why I am sending this. I have a ridiculous support group and so many of those are Flyer Faithful. Not just my close roommates, but, thanks to Facebook, all the people I knew from Dayton have sent well wishes, presents, food, hugs and much, much more. Many of these people are those I connected with through the Honors Program. With the support of my amazing husband and family, many UD alumni I still call best friends and the rest of my posse, I finished preventative fertility treatments and 16 rounds of chemo and surgery over the past nine months. I am now done with treatment, almost done with surgeries and have an awesome prognosis.

I also finished my master's of science in nursing during all this, as I was in my last semester of school when I was



At UD 10-year reunion visiting "our porch" at 441 Kiefaber.

diagnosed. I only missed one day of work as a pediatric trauma ER nurse during chemo. I passed my boards and am now a pediatric nurse practitioner who has accepted a position in Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

It is overwhelming to know that even though you don't see everyone from college on a daily basis, they keep you in their thoughts and prayers. It's not even a question as to whether being a UD alum improved my quality of life — it's possibly the best thing that ever happened to me.

If a few Flyers remember to schedule their mammogram, do a breast self-exam or donate to breast cancer research as result of this article, we've hopefully helped one fewer person from our Flyer Family to have to deal with this.

All photos courtesy of Bethany Yager Houze.



The breast cancer walk (left to right): Dries Barkley, Yager Houze, Wathen Grammer and Mangino.

2017

Introducing the Clare Boothe Luce Signature Program

The University of Dayton applied for and was awarded a \$201,600 grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program of the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant will support the research endeavors of eight undergraduate women in underrepresented STEM fields.

The program will be housed in and managed by the University of Dayton Honors Program. It also will provide support programming, including faculty and professional mentorship, in the hopes of preparing these women for graduate school and careers in research and academia. I am excited about the opportunities that this new program will bring to the University and the Honors Program.



Nancy Miller, Ph.D.
Associate Director
of Research

studentnews

Announcements

Alex Lawriw '19:
Accepted into University of Dayton School of Business Administration's BESST Program.

Prestigious Awards

Alison Cozad '17:
Awarded an Ohio Legislative Services Commission Fellowship.

Research Publications

Michael Coladipietro '17:
Author of "Two-Step Synthetic Route toward Asymmetric and Symmetric Boron Dipyrromethenes: Synthesis, Optical Properties, and Electrochemistry," published in European Journal of Organic Chemistry, August 2016.

Fall 2016 Graduation

Congratulations to this year's December graduates!

Mark Boemker
Megan Brady
Taylor Covers
Alison Cozad
Austin Fischer
Kathryn Fox
Caleb Holtzmann
Elijah Kuska
Anthony Maiorano
Alyssa Manzione
Taylor Schemmel
Kyle Vanden Eynden

2016

in photos



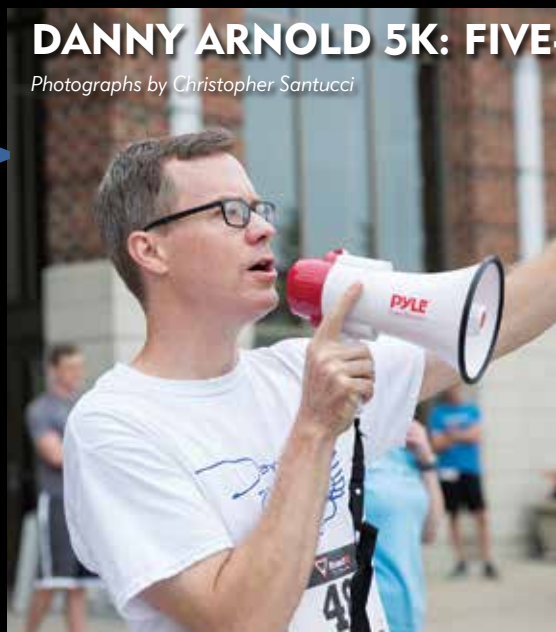
THE ART OF BEING: VOCATION CONFERENCE

Photographs by Jaclyn Franz, Hannah Jackson and Christopher Santucci.



HONORS STUDENT WELCOME

Photographs by Christopher Santucci



Class of 1984

LAURA ELOE: After 29 years at Chaminade Julianne High School in Dayton, I have returned to UD to teach in the Department of Religious Studies while I pursue a doctorate in theology.

Class of 1987

GINNY JUDGE HORAN: I was elected academic chair of the department of communication and the arts at Suffolk County Community College on Long Island. I first began teaching here in 1991 and left to raise my three children, Ryan, Timmy and Kylie. I returned in 2008 and had to reapply and interview but was incredibly blessed to get another position, which ultimately led to this latest position. It is certainly interesting to switch over to administration and I have a great appreciation for ALL the wonderful teachers I had at UD. My husband Jim is a Villanova grad (1985) and this year we celebrated our 23rd anniversary.

I will be co-chairing our 30th Reunion this coming June 2017 and would LOVE to see more members of our class. Perhaps if we have enough RSVPs we could put together a little Honors meet-up at some point during the weekend. Interested alums should check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ud1987/>.

Class of 1990

VICKI KLOCKE: My husband Dennis (Honors '90) and I celebrated 25 amazing years of marriage this past year. To celebrate, we traveled to Italy, making a pilgrimage to Rome during the Jubilee Year of Mercy and visiting other areas of Italy. I currently work part-time as the coordinator of adult faith formation and RCIA at St. Joseph Parish in Cold Spring, Kentucky. I also serve as the chairperson of the Diocese of Covington RCIA advisory committee and as managing editor of the Diocese of Covington RCIA Policies and Guidelines Manual (promulgated by Roger J. Foys, DD, Bishop of Covington). We have four

children: Kristin, 21, Ross, 19, Maria, 14 and Amy, 11. We will welcome a son-in-law, Craig, when our oldest child, Kristin, is married. I am not doing anything flashy with my Honors degree from UD. I have not published any research, pursued any advanced degrees or risen to the top of the academic or corporate world. However, I am very happy using the talents God gave me to serve Him in my marriage, raising my children and helping others to know, love and serve Christ in His Church in my part-time position at my parish and my service to the Diocese.

Class of 1992

LAURA LUEHRMANN (international studies) was recently promoted to the rank of full professor in the department of political science at Wright State University. At Wright State, Laura also serves as the director of the M.A. program in international and comparative politics. She and her colleague, December Green, recently published *Contentious Politics in Brazil and China: Beyond Regime* (Westview Press). The fourth edition of their textbook, *Comparative Politics of the Global South: Linking Concepts and Cases* (Lynne Rienner Publishers) will come out in 2017. Laura and her husband Joe live in Beavercreek with their two sons, Jakob (13) and Andrew (10). In addition to all things political science, she enjoys coaching her sons in CYO basketball.

Class of 1993

CARRIE ROHMAN: I'm now a tenured associate professor of English at Lafayette College specializing in British literature, animal studies and performance studies. I am about to publish my second scholarly book with Oxford University Press and am still doing choreography and dance in professional settings as well.

Class of 1994

JULIE HAGEDORN ZUDE, M.D., has been living in Davenport, Iowa, for the last seven years with

her husband of 13 years and four children, Noah, Noel, Isaac and Mary, who are now in 2nd, 4th, 5th and 7th grades. Julie works at a community mental health center as a child psychiatrist across the Mississippi River in Moline, Illinois. Her husband Randall stays home and served as Isaac's teacher for his second half of 3rd grade as he was diagnosed with leukemia in February 2015. Isaac returned to regular school by the fall. His treatment is less intense now but will last for two more years. Prayer, faith and the loving care of others has kept us strong.

Class of 1998

PATRICK J. "PJ" BIMONTE: I am a Class of 1998 Honors Program graduate with a bachelor's ('98) and master's ('00) in electrical engineering. I currently live in Naples, Florida, with my 10-year-old son Daniel, where I am a project manager in the Global Information Services department for Arthrex, a fast-growing, Naples-based medical device manufacturing company. In addition to my work and parental responsibilities, I serve on the Arthrex Charitable Committee, I am the event lead for the 2017 Naples Area Relay for Life and I run a few half-marathons and sprint triathlons a year.



As a native Floridian, the transition to UD was a major lifestyle change, but looking back, it is one I would make 100 times out of 100 if I had it to make again. As the saying goes, I would like to go back to 1994, not to change anything but to relive it! UD's mission to learn, lead and serve is something that has stuck with me since I first stepped foot on campus and has guided me since then.

Class of 1999

BILL KNIGHT: I am currently working as an associate professor of emergency medicine and neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati (UC). I split my time clinically between the UC Emergency Department, the Neuro ICU, the Surgical ICU and taking call for the UC Stroke Team. In the fall, I work as the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant for the NFL on the sideline of the Bengals games, as well as their independent neuro specialist for players that sustain concussions. I ran my sixth marathon at the Flying Pig in May and set a PR under four hours. I currently live in Loveland, Ohio, with my wife Annie (Poirier '99) and my two kids, Reina, 9 and Liam, 7.



Class of 2001

JENNY SPRY VILLIER: Jenny and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of Alice Catherine (2-10-16), who joins big siblings James (8), Nathan (6) and Charlotte (2) at home in Denver, Colorado.



Class of 2002

NICOLE BROWN (biochemistry) graduated from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 2006. She married Nicholas Ferreri (biology '00) in 2011. Nicole is now

a cardiologist specializing in adult congenital heart disease at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Nicole and Nicholas welcomed their first child, Hugo Alexander Ferreri, on April 13, 2016.



Class of 2005

GREG RAFFIO ('05 and '07) and **ALICIA DEMARCO** ('05) just celebrated one year of having Leonardo DiMarco Raffio as part of their family. He is happy, mischievous, healthy and has non-stop energy. Greg is also a partner at Go Sustainable Energy, an independent energy efficiency consulting firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, which just celebrated a decade of being in business. Many of Go's employees and partners are UD alumni.

JIM SMERBECK (history and political science) and his wife Emily (Abraham-Linesch) Smerbeck ('04, leadership) welcomed Valerie into the world on March 21, 2016. She joins older siblings Liam (four) and Cecilia (two) at home in Oakwood, Ohio. Jim works as a law clerk, having received his J.D. from Indiana University-McKinney School of Law in 2012.

Class of 2006

KATIE CUNNINGHAM BLADES: I went to law school after Dayton and now live in Phoenix. After four years at the Attorney General's Office, I have recently taken the position of deputy general counsel and legislative liaison with the Department of Child Safety. In the past year, I was also licensed to be a foster parent. I have had two placements since then, and I currently have a 13-month-old who I have had for 10 months.

Class of 2007

LYNN WATERHOUSE: I am at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego working on my doctorate. Since leaving UD, I got a Master's of Science in Fisheries Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences at The College of William and Mary and a Master's of Science in Statistics from Pennsylvania State University.

Class of 2009

JENNY DIEMUNSCH: About a year ago I started as an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Vincent College. It is a small Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts college in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Saint Vincent is smaller but reminds me of UD, with its Catholic tradition and similar student community and environment. I'm really happy here and am so happy to have been part of the UD community, as it helps me to relate to the students at St. Vincent.

ERIN SYLVESTER NICHTING: 2016 was a big year for me, I graduated with my doctorate in psychology in July. I also gave birth to a wonderful and healthy baby boy in February. Finally, I bought a house with my husband, also a UD grad. It goes without saying that my UD experience had much to do with my ability to graduate successfully this year. It also had much to do with my goals of working in the field of psychology in order to give back to others and help individuals in whatever way I can in order to benefit the community in which I live.

PAT TASSONE: In 2009 I enrolled at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, where I completed my medical degree in 2013. I matched in a residency training program in otolaryngology — head and neck surgery (commonly known as “ENT” or ear, nose and throat) at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In August 2015, I married another University of Dayton

graduate, Megan Brennan (now Megan Tassone) and we are currently living in Philadelphia until I complete my residency training in 2018. Following graduation from Jefferson, I will be pursuing an additional year of fellowship training in head and neck cancer surgery — location to be determined. I'm currently working in a cancer biology laboratory in addition to my surgical training and am relying on the skills I learned at UD to help me along. In particular, I have Dr. Bob Kearns of the Biology Department to thank.

Class of 2010

CHRISTIE BACK has allowed the Marianist spirit of community and excellence in service to drive her career and extra-curricular time. She has just completed a national year of service with Notre Dame AmeriCorps, working with adult learners in both GED and ESL programming in Kettering, Ohio. Through her work with the immigrant population, she began volunteer attorney work with Advocacy for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) and became interested in immigration law. Upon completion of her year of service, she accepted a position locally at Altick & Corwin, Co. L.P.A. where she is the Spanish-speaking associate, practicing primarily immigration law and working with the Hispanic community to better integrate the foreign population into the city of Dayton. She also practices business law and domestic relations law. She pulls daily from the virtues of Catholic social teaching instilled in her during the UD years and enjoys being close enough to campus to attend Mass at the chapel and participate in the alumni network.

KRISTA VERSTEEG: Since graduating from UD, I have been awarded the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. I am also currently a fellow in the Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative

through the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Mercy Health Center think tank. Both of these are helping me gain experience and a professional network that helped in my doctoral defense this past fall as well as in starting a career in science diplomacy.

Class of 2011

AUBREY HARTNETT: In March of 2016, Jason Haynes and I welcomed a baby boy, Leo. Thankfully, he is a very happy and healthy boy and was baptized at Saint Cecilia Parish (home to a few other UD alumni) in September.

CATHERINE GLYNN KLESHINSKI: My experience at UD and the Honors Program impacted my life in three main ways. First, I met my now-husband Ryan Kleshinski (CS) at UD my first year — we tied the knot just months after graduation in 2011! Second, the classes I took (marketing and international business double major) and connections I made allowed me to pursue a digital and e-commerce analytics career in Cincinnati for a few years after graduation. Finally, during my junior and senior years at UD, I worked with my advisor on an Honors thesis, which we eventually published. This experience with academic research led me to where I am today — a 2nd year doctoral student at Purdue in the Krannert School of Management, where I am studying relationships at work, work-life balance issues and justice in organizations. I am very thankful for UD contributing to these life blessings!



JIM SAYWELL: I am getting married to Alexandra LoPresti, University of Dayton Class of 2012! I will be clerking for Justice Samuel Alito at the Supreme Court of the United States during the October term 2017.

KRISTIN HAMMAKER SCHARF: *Correction to Class Notes originally published in HONORSlink Issue 16.1.* Hammaker Scharf earned her bachelor's degree from UD in 2011 and her master's from UD in 2013. In her September 2015 wedding her sister, Katherine Hammaker Gonzalez, another Honors Program graduate, was her matron of honor. Elizabeth Scott Carroll was a bridesmaid.

Class of 2012

GLENN KNAPE: I just returned from a two-and-a-half month research project with Partners in Health, an international NGO I have dreamed of working for since my second year at UD. They apply medicine using the idea of accompaniment from liberation theology. Also, I'm currently in medical school.

Class of 2013

MATT KNUTSON: This summer I accepted and started a position as a presidential management fellow at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. I am serving as a financial analyst in the Research, Markets and Regulations Division within the Small Business Lending Markets office on the rulemaking for Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which seeks to collect lending data on small, women- and minority-owned businesses to ensure they have access to credit in order to promote community development and fair lending practices. I went to graduate school after UD at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where I studied economic development and public finance. I definitely wouldn't have gotten where I am today without



my education from Dayton, and I still stay in touch with several professors at UD who helped me with the application process and selecting a position for my fellowship.

ELIZABETH WETZEL: My life update is that I have a new job working for Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) in Lilongwe, Malawi. I am transitioning from a role at Dignitas International in Zomba, Malawi. BIPAI Malawi is an organization that provides medical care and community outreach programs to enhance the quality of pediatric HIV care in Malawi. My new position is a research fellow. I am involved in monitoring and evaluation, operational research and programs within Baylor. My time at UD influenced my career path to work in the health care field and sparked my passion for health equity. My UD experience also fostered my love for Malawi through a student organization called Determined 2 Develop (D2D).

Class of 2015

KELSEY DIACHUN: I graduated from the engineering technology program in December 2015. I am now a member of the Edison Engineering Development Program at GE Aviation Systems in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this program, I'll be doing three rotations within the company. My first is as a system safety engineer. My job is essentially to ensure that the design and testing engineers develop avionics products which are safe for flight and prevent the plane from falling out of the sky. I'm also taking classes towards a master's degree in computing from the University of Marquette in Wisconsin.

LIBBY DURNWALD: I am in a new position with Operation Smile as a surgical education officer. I have traveled to six countries and completed 15 international programs in the last year and a half!

HAILEY KWON: I started my doctorate program in philosophy this past fall at University of California, San Diego.

NOLAN MCNULTY: Through my work as a management consultant, I have found a small window for

viewing community in the workplace. My organization creates a common connection between businesses and their people, bringing people under the tent of the business and not looking at them as a resource. I have the pleasure to give employees a sense of significance and dignity in their daily lives, which is related to the spirit of the Marianists.

Class of 2016

ANNIE BJELOPETROVICH: Her Honors thesis was accepted for publication as a short communication at the *Journal of Biomechanics* (2015 Impact Factor 2.4). The paper title is “Effects of incremental ambulatory-range loading on arch height index parameters.” The *Journal* has high visibility in the field of biomechanics.

EMILY KEANE: I am doing the Peace Corps in Ukraine for the next two years!



CRISTINA SANTIAGO: I have recently moved to Mexico and am studying medicine here. It has been a big change but it's been pretty amazing. The people are really kind and the food is fantastic. Apart from that, I have been doing a lot of service trips throughout the country with my medical school.

On-line issues of
HONORSlink
can be found at:
[issuu.com/
udhonorsnews](http://issuu.com/udhonorsnews)

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email: honorsinfo@udayton.edu ~ *website:* udayton.edu/honors ~
facebook key words: University-of-Dayton-Honors-Program

calendar →

January

27 Honors Art Exhibit

February

1/7 Thesis Advisors Forum Sessions

9/17 Junior Thesis Workshop Sessions

15 DC Flyers Workshop

22 Networking Session

March

24 Honors Student Symposium

April

5 Stander Symposium

May

6 Honors Graduation Brunch

7 May Graduation Commencement

8 Chaminade Scholar Pilgrimage Begins

15 Berry Summer Thesis Institute Begins

17 Global Flyers: London Program Begins

23 Global Flyers: Oxford Program Begins

30 DC Flyers Program Begins

June

12 Global Flyers: India Program Begins

